

Ellis Island

Self-Guided Activity (Grades 2-5)

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Education Department
Ellis Island Immigration Museum
Statue of Liberty National Monument



Name : _____

Ellis Island: Be an Inspector!

Hey Inspector! Time to be a Great Detective.

Directions: Explore the main building to solve how immigrants passed through Ellis Island. *Head to the Information Desk to start your investigation!*



Leaving Home

Many passengers who immigrated to Ellis Island never saw their homeland again. List three items that you would bring to a new country if you were to leave home today.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Great Hall

(Walk up the middle staircase to the Great Hall. Ask a Park Ranger for the handout, "chalk mark"). Examine the list of diseases inspectors looked for at Ellis Island. What does a chalk mark mean?

What type of disease might this immigrant (in this photo) have?



What might the item (right) be used for? (Ask a Park Ranger to look at this item).



Optional: Visit the activity station, if it is not too busy. Try to see if you can complete some of the activities at the table!

Finding a New Home *(Head to the table marked "Ellis Island Inspectors.")*

Following the instructions on the table, choose one of the immigrant families. Fill out the information at the table to decide where you are going to live next!

Family Name:

Country of Origin:

Important Information about the Family:

Final Destination in America:

Reason for choosing this destination:

***Anatoly is a new immigrant from Russia. Why might he want to live in a Russian neighborhood? What benefits might Anatoly find there?



Bonus: You can't crack the case without the right vocabulary. Recruit a Park Ranger to help define the terms "immigrant" and "steerage class."